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Marvis James March 31, 2005

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A I don't recall a specific conversation concerning that, no.

- 2 Q Do you recall any general, just generally, do you recall any
- 3 conversation with Mr. Harbin where that issue was raised?
- 4 A I again can't recall any specific conversation with Michael
- 5 Harbin about that.
- 6 Q Without dealing in specifics, are you aware that he was
- 7 making that complaint?
- 8 A I'm aware that was a concern of his, yes.
- 9 Q How did you become aware of that?
- 10 A I believe it might have been, you know, from maybe a market
- manager, you know, at the time. Issues of pricing generally
- 12 were not directed to the Credit Department because we had
- 13 nothing to do with the pricing.
- 14 Q Well, I understand that, but I'm sure that you heard those
- complaints from dealers, didn't you; pricing complaints?
- 16 MR. MARCH: Object to the form of the question.
- 17 This is way too broad.
- 18 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I can't specifically recall any
- 19 particular conversations like that.
- 20 BY MR. SMITH:
- 21 Q So that never entered into any of your conversations with any
- 22 dealers, complaints about pricing?
- 23 A I can't say if it did or didn't, you know. It very well
- could have, but I can't sit here and say specifically yes, I
- 25 recall this incident or that incident.

- 1 Q The recommendation --
- 2 A To management.
- 3 Q -- goes where?
- A It would go to my immediate boss.
- 5 Q Now if he makes a decision we have to do something, we've got
 - to do something more drastic about this account, does he go
- 7 to the Legal Department then?
- 8 A Generally speaking, yes, he would certainly get the Legal
- 9 Department involved.
- 10 Q Now is it ever your place to notify dealers that if they
- don't act within a certain period of time, you're going to
- 12 have to file a lawsuit?
- 13 A I would not communicate that to the dealer, no.
- 14 Q At this time, November 7, 2002, when you sent this letter,
- 15 Steelcase was not secured; correct?
- 16 MR. MARCH: Just a moment. I object to the form of
- 17 the guestion.
- 18 BY MR. SMITH:
- 19 Q You can go ahead and answer the question.
- 20 A What type of security are you referring to?
- 21 Q Any security.
- 22 A We did not have a security interest at this time, no.
- 23 Q Was it your understanding in November of 2002 that Mr. Harbin
- 24 was personally responsible on a personal guaranty?
- 25 A My understanding at this time was that he was not.

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- Q What would you do with those complaints if a dealer made it
- 2 to you? Who would you pass it along to?
- 3 A We would generally probably pass it on, if it was material,
- 4 to the market manager, because that was their area they dealt
- 5 with. We didn't deal with that.
- 6 (Exhibit 13 marked for identification.)
- 7 Q I show you what's been marked as Deposition Exhibit Number 13
 - and ask if you can identify that.
- 9 A Okay.

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- 10 Q That's a letter from you to Michael Harbin dated November 7,
- 11 2002; is that accurate?
- 12 A That is correct.
- 13 Q And you're concerned about Harbin's, Inc. owing Steelcase
- 14 over \$400,000 dollars?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q It looks like over \$30,000 dollars is 90 days past due; is
- 17 that accurate?
- 18 A That's accurate.
- 19 Q And if you were to compare this to other dealers, would you
- 20 characterize this as a seriously delinquent account?
- 21 A Yes, I would.
- 22 Q And at some point you have to reach a decision what you're
- 23 going to do about collecting the account; right? I mean,
- that's your decision as a credit manager; is that right?
- 25 A Yes. We would at some point make a recommendation.

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- Q And as I understand your testimony, it wouldn't have been
- 2 your place, anyway, to remind Mr. Harbin that he had a
- 3 personal guaranty if you thought he had one; is that accurate
- 4 or not?
- 5 A Could you -- I'm not quite understanding your question.
- Q Well, one of the things -- you're trying to get an account
- 7 paid, and you testified that you wouldn't threaten a lawsuit,
- but would it ever be your place to remind a dealer that if he
- g doesn't pay, there's some personal liability involved if
- perhaps the dealer had a personal guaranty?
- 11 A If we had a personal guaranty on an account and the debt v
- 12 covered under a personal guaranty, yes, I could have
- 13 communicated that information to the dealer, yes.
- 14 Q You didn't do that in this case?
- 15 A No, I didn't.
- 16 (Exhibit 14 marked for identification.)
- 17 Q I show you what's been marked as Exhibit Number 14. Take a
- moment to read that, if you would.
- 19 A Okay.
- 20 Q This is an e-mail from you to Steven Waugh; is that correct?
- 21 A That's right.
- 22 Q At the top of the page anyway, and it's dated November 8th of
- 23 2002; is that right?
- 24 A That's correct.
- 25 Q Who was Steven Waugh?



14 (Pages 47 to 50)

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